(ii) breach by the contractor and infringement of obligations.

(iii) any unlawful activity or public nuisance or ommission conduct by act on Rly. permises directly/ indirectly by the operator or his agents, subletting or assigning without prior approval of the corporation.

The contract will be awarded for a minimum period of 15 months. This will be further extended. However, no exclusive operation rights have been given to the operator. As and when the need arises, Luxury Train will be introduced by the Corporation.

Gauge Conversion

2604. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government of start the work of gauge conversion between Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dassa-Mahuva;

(b) whether the IRCON is going to execute the above conversion work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The modalities of funding of the project are being finalised.

(b) No final decision has been taken in this regard so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Power House

2605. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board issued notice for closure of some power houses due to spreading of pollution by them;

(b) if so, whether two units of Panki power house i.e. Hardua Gunj and Tanda Paricha Power houses are also under threat;

(c) whether the Electricity Boards do not have adequate money to install pollution control equipment in their power generation units;

(d) whether a unit of Unchahaar Power house is completely closed down whereas I.D. Fan of other unit is being operated on only 110 Megawatt Capacity due to technical fault in I.D. Fan blades thereby aggravating the power crisis further in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have issued directions to 28 coal based thermal stations in the various States for preparation of a time bound Action Plan for compliance with the emission limits from the generating units. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) have also received a notice for compliance with environmental standards within specified time schedule. However, no notice for closure of power houses has been received. The two units of Panki Power house are presently closed due to technical reasons as well as on account of non installation of electrostatic precipitators. Paricha and Tanda thermal power stations have been provided with electrostatic precipitators and their units are in operation. In Harduaganj thermal power station available units are running.

(c) Some of the State Electricity Boards do not have adequate funds to instal pollution control equipments in their power generating units.

(d) and (e) During April, 1977. Unchahaar Unit 2 was taken under planned shut down for annual overhaul and Boiler Licence renewal. The other unit had developed some technical problem in I.D. Fan which was attended during 19.4.97 to 21.4.97. Both the units are fully operational at present and have operated during July, 1997 at 78.1% PLF.

Functioning of Computers at Azamgarh

2606. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether computers have been installed at Azamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh for reservations;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting reservation by computer till now; and

(c) the time by which computer reservation is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Provision of computerised reservation facilities at Azamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh is an approved work in the Annual Plan for 1997-98. Work is in progress for the same and they are expected to shortly become operational.